(d) whether any inquiry into the incidents has since been completed;

(e) if so, what is the outcome of the inquiry; and

(f) what remedial steps are being taken to obviate the chances of such recurrence in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (f) In a consignment of heavy melting scrap imported by two private firms from UAE, 283 old and rusted artillery shells were detected in December, 1993 by the Customs Department at the Inland Container Depot at Tughlakabad. These shells were inspected by the Bomb Disposal Squad of the National Security Guards. The shells were found to be blind i.e. fired but not exploded, and containing explosive materials. There are no Army bunkers in Pali.

Army's help was sought to demolish this explosive material. During demolition operation on 8-4-94, 3 Army personnel were injured one of whom subsequently succumbed to his injuries. A Staff Court of Inquiry has been ordered to ascertain the cause of the accident.

Ministry of Finance has informed the Ministry of External Affairs to bring the above incident to the notice of the Ambassador of UAE in India, so that the UAE Government is made aware of the serious security implications of exporting such consignments which can cause damage to property and human life in the importing countries. The Customs authorities are also examining all such consignments of imported waste and scrap material very carefully.

Contract for overhauling of Mirage-2000

6973. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have signed any contract with any foreign company for setting up facilities at Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) for the overhaul of Mirage-2000;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) by when these facilities are likely to become available and at what cost?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (c) Government have entered into a contract M/s. Dassault Aviation, France for supply of equipment, tools, documents, spares, etc. for setting up facilities at Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) for major inspection (overhaul) and servicing of Marage-2000 ariframe and accessories. The setting up of the facilities is planned to be completed by the time the aircraft become due for overhaul.

Financial assistance for testing of Agni

6974. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Defence Research and Development Organisation had sought Rs. 50 crores to conduct three more test launches of the indigenously-developed intermediates range missile, AGNI;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government have not responded to the DRDO request; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) No, Sir. Defence Research and Development Organisation had not sought funds to conduct more test launches of technology demonstrator vehicle AGNI as this technology demonstrator project has been completed.

(b) Does not arise.

)c3 Does not arise.